

MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2005

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at The Stratford Inn in Danville, Virginia at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 8, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Board Retreat to discuss goals and priorities for the upcoming year and beyond. Members present: Nathaniel Hall, Chairman, George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Larry G. Hamlett, Jack W. Hooper, Jeremiah Jefferies, Kenneth D. Travis, and C. Hester Vernon, III. Also present: Jeffrey H. Earp, County Manager and Robert V. Shaver, Jr., County Attorney. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

BOARD RETREAT

The Board discussed goals and priorities for the upcoming year and beyond, which included:

Schools

- Obtain number of students receiving GED.
- After School Program – determine if there is tutoring in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools.
- Schedule meeting with Board of Education to discuss Report Card scores, high school drop-out rate, SAT scores, college bound students, and issues in general.

Economic Development

- Need to refocus on economic development.
- Have a general meeting with Economic Development Board to assure them that they have the Board's full support. Ask for suggestions from Economic Development Board.
- Establish Tourism Committee – (Commissioner Hamlett) – Have a presentation at Welcome Center showcasing Caswell County. Review possibilities for Farmer Lake (including adding some park facilities).

Health Department

- Have Environmental Health make some inspections of junkyards and abandoned car sites to assure no groundwater contamination.
- Obtain report from Health Department for full Board.

County Planner

- Schedule County Planner on Board agenda for presentation of GIS.

Revaluation

- Determine process to avoid missing anyone.
- Determine provisions for termination of contract.
- Determine if appraisal contractor is in compliance with contract.

Revenues

- Form a committee to look at other revenue sources. Determine measures to increase revenues to pay for services.

Personnel

- Consider some type of merit system.
- Human Resources Officer to get recommendations on merit system and salary adjustments.
- Consider restructuring of Finance Office.
- Consider centralizing of some operations – after receipt and review of audit.

Other Issues

- Planning for the future.
- Four-laning of NC 86.
- Tax appraisals.
- Review current gas pump system at Sheriff's Office.
- Communication.
- Consider scheduling one Board of Commissioners' meeting per month during the day. Periodically have department heads make presentations.
- Deer Hunting with Dogs.
 - County Attorney to define Board's legal scope of authority.
 - Meet with Wildlife Resources Commission re: problems, representative from Board of Commissioners on Wildlife Resources Commission.
 - Establish Hunting Sub-committee (Commissioner Hooper).
 - Develop a list of issues and concerns.
- Caswell League of Governments to be placed on agenda in February.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 1:10 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

Nathaniel Hall
Chairman
